

RESOLUTION NO. 9-23

COMMON COUNCIL OF MUNCIE, INDIANA



**A RESOLUTION TO NAME THE PRAIRIE CREEK EDUCATION CENTER  
THE COOK FAMILY EDUCATION CENTER**

**WHEREAS**, the Common Council of Muncie, Indiana (the "Council") adopted Ordinance 31-22 authorizing the Common Council to name public facilities owned by the City of Muncie; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cook Family has dedicated more than seventy-five (75) years of service to the development and stewardship of Prairie Creek Park; and

**WHEREAS**, Prairie Creek Supervisor Dustin Clark has recommended the naming of the Education Center; and

**WHEREAS**, if the City of Muncie Park and Recreation Board adopts a Resolution and the Council holds a public hearing to consider such request, then the new name of Cook Family Education Center can be adopted.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF MUNCIE, INDIANA AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1.** The Council hereby acknowledges the City of Muncie Park and Recreation Board's Resolution in favor of naming the Prairie Creek Education Center.

**SECTION 2.** The Council held a public hearing and accepted a written justification for the proposed naming from Prairie Creek Supervisor Dustin Clark pursuant to Ordinance.

**SECTION 3.** The Council names the Prairie Creek Education Center to the Cook Family Education Center.

**SECTION 4.** This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage.

Passed by the Common Council of the City of Muncie, Indiana, this 10th day of July, 2023.

	Yeas	Nays	Abstained	Absent
Jeff Green	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jeff Robinson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brandon Garrett	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

District #4

Jerry Dishman


Roger Overbey

Aaron Clark

Ro Selvey


Troy Ingram

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>


  
President

Common Council, City of Muncie

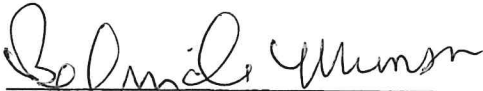
Presented by me to the Mayor for his approval, this 10 day of July, 2023.

  
Belinda Munson, City Clerk

The above Resolution is approved vetoed by me this 10<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2023.

  
Dan Ridenour, Mayor

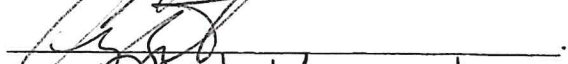
ATTEST:

  
Belinda Munson, City Clerk

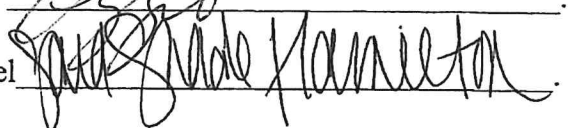
This resolution is proposed by Council Member



This resolution is approved in form by Controller



This ordinance is approved in form by Legal Counsel



*July 10, 2023*

*Prepared for Members of the Common Council of the City of Muncie*

### **Resolution 9-23: Letter of Support**

This letter is in support and sponsorship of the naming of the new education center at Prairie Creek in honor of the Cook Family. This honor reflects more than 75 years of service one dedicated family has contributed to our park. This honor, initiated by Prairie Creek leadership, is endorsed by Mayor Dan Ridenour, and has received unanimous approval from the Muncie Parks Board.

Eldon Max Cook Sr. started his employment in 1979. As a foundational part of the team, he helped form and oversee many of Prairie Creek's daily operations and overall planning. Eldon Cook Sr. served for 29 years, training many staff and passing on a wealth of information to the next generation of leaders. In 1986, Eldon was given the Key to the City for years of life-saving actions at Prairie Creek Reservoir. Eldon Cook Sr. remained involved and continued to make Prairie Creek better for 43 years. He was a dedicated patron of the park up until his passing in 2022.

In today's world, completing 10 years of service with any company is a significant milestone. Betty Cook served at Prairie Creek for 11 years helping run the office. Her warm, friendly presence made everyone feel welcome. Her caring spirit extended to many injured animals, who found their way to the Cook household in need of some TLC from Miss Betty.

Eldon Cook JR (Cookie) followed in his parents' footsteps and started in 1989. Like his father, he carries a deep love and respect for the park, which he knows like the back of his hand. He has served as a conservationist and steward of the natural resources of the park. His immense knowledge and experience with the park has made him an invaluable resource, as he never hesitates to step up as a plumber, electrician, carpenter, janitor, or any role necessary to keep the park beautiful. His name has even been mentioned on a national stage, as one of the people who makes Muncie's IRONMAN the best participant experience in North America.

Altogether, the Cook Family has served Prairie Creek for more than 75 years of continued service. The park would not be what it is without the family's love, dedication, and stewardship. We hope that the Education Center will inspire future generations to appreciate our natural resources and our beautiful park as much as the Cook Family has.

**Dustin Clark**

*Superintendent of Prairie Creek Reservoir Park*